

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

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Health Reform Improves the Health of Local Businesses

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Improve your company's profitability and productivity, and learn how healthcare reform will impact your business. This year's Healthy Business Forum will take place June 21, 2013 in Frederick, MD. This free event will highlight key action steps for building a successful work site wellness program and includes a question and answer session with expert panelists, including an expert in Health Reform.

Businesses and nonprofits will learn how health reform will impact their organizations, and how workplace wellness programs can improve profitability and productivity. Discussions will include information about health reform and its impact on businesses, the challenges and benefits of evidence-based strategies to promote wellness in the workplace, and best practices from local employers that have implemented wellness programs.

Ask questions and find solutions at this free event open to small and medium-sized employers in Frederick, Carroll, and Washington Counties.

Click [here](#) to see the event flyer.

Click [here](#) to register.

Click [here](#) to view the local health department websites.

Maryland Ranks 10th for Senior Health



The recent UnitedHealthcare Foundation's America's Health Rankings Seniors 2013 Report evaluated senior health based on weighted health indicators, including obesity, smoking and chronic illnesses. Other measures in this evaluation included the number of

doctors and other medical professionals serving the community, hospital use and medical procedures. According to the findings of the report, Maryland ranked 10th among states for senior health with low levels of debilitating arthritis pain and falls, and a proportionate supply of geriatricians across the state.

The reported challenges in Maryland's senior health surround the limited supply of home health aides. The UnitedHealthcare Foundation suggests that Maryland has room for improvement in the following indicators: getting better prescription drug coverage for seniors, improving healthy eating habits among seniors and increasing the supply of home health workers. Since the population of older adults in Maryland is expanding, improving services and resources targeted toward this population is essential for continued health improvements in the state.

Click [here](#) to read the America's Health Rankings Seniors Report.

Click [here](#) to view the SHIP featured topic for healthy aging.

View the [Mental Health and Depression](#), [Alzheimer's](#), and [Oral Health](#) issue briefs focusing on older adult health.

Maryland Health Progress Act Ensures Access to Quality, Affordable Care



Effective June 1st, 2013, the Maryland Health Progress Act completes a three year process to ensure that hundreds of thousands of Marylanders that formally had little to no access to quality, affordable health care now have options that have never existed before. The bill promotes transparency, non-discrimination, and fiscal responsibility that will help create a robust marketplace and provide feasible options for many Marylanders left out in the cold. This

legislation also makes sure that we continue the progress of 2007 that expanded Medicaid thousands of residents.

Signed into law in May of 2013, the Maryland Health Progress Act expands Medicaid to 133% of federal poverty, establishes a dedicated funding stream for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, provides for the migration of Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP) members in order to ease their transition and moderate the potential impact on rates, allows for the development of a state reinsurance program to counteract potential short term pressures on rates, establishes policies to promote continuity of care when individuals move in and out of Medicaid and commercial insurance, and makes other changes necessary for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to achieve final certification as a state-

based exchange.

Click [here](#) for an advocate's guide to the Maryland Health Progress Act of 2013.

View the [SHIP measures](#) and [tools](#) for increasing the proportion of people with health insurance.

Maryland Health Exchange Has 13 New Insurers



The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE) announced last week that 13 insurance companies have applied to offer plans to Maryland residents and small business owners through Maryland Health Connection, the state-based health insurance marketplace. The goal of the exchange is to make health insurance affordable and accessible for all Maryland residents, including the approximately 14 percent of Maryland's 5.8 million residents who are currently uninsured. The exchange will offer health and stand-alone dental plans to qualified individuals and small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. It will also offer subsidies to help cover the cost of insurance.

Beginning in 2014, the Affordable Care Act requires all qualified health plans offered in the individual and small group markets, both inside and outside of the insurance marketplaces, to cover a comprehensive package of health care services, known as essential health benefits. The following companies intend to offer insurance plans through the exchange: Aetna, BEST Life and Health Insurance Co., CareFirst, Coventry, Delta, DentaQuest Mid-Atlantic Inc., Dominion Dental Services Inc., Evergreen Health Cooperative Inc., Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of the Mid-Atlantic, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., United Concordia, and UnitedHealthcare.

By engaging in the approval process to offer plans on Maryland Health Connection, these insurance companies have demonstrated their commitment to join the State in efforts to provide accessible health coverage for the 730,000 Marylanders who are uninsured.

Click [here](#) to read the full press release from Maryland Health Connection.

View the [SHIP measures](#) and [tools](#) for increasing the proportion of people with health insurance.

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

ORHP Offers Funding for Purchase of Defibrillators in Rural

Communities

The Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP) released the 2013 Rural Access to External Devices Grant Program to purchase automated external defibrillators (AEDs), provide defibrillator and basic life support training in AED usage and place the AEDs in rural communities. The deadline to submit an application is June 17. Click [here](#) for more information.

Funding Announcement

Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG)
Application deadline: Jun 28, 2013. Grants to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. Click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

June 10 - 12, 2013
2013 APHSA National Policy Forum
American Public Human Services Association
Arlington, VA
Click [here](#) for more information.